



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lincoln Home National
Historic Site
413 South 8th Street
Springfield, IL 62701
(217) 391-3221
(217) 492-4241
www.nps.gov/liho

Lincoln Home NHS News Release

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Contact: Dale Phillips, 217-391-3222, dale_phillipsnps.gov

Tourism to Lincoln Home National Historic Site creates \$17,548,500 in Economic Benefits *Report shows visitor spending supports 224 jobs in local economy*

SPRINGFIELD, IL – A new National Park Service (NPS) report shows that 233,296 visitors to Lincoln Home National Historic Site in 2015 spent \$13,869,400 in communities near the park. That spending supported 224 jobs in the local area and had a cumulative benefit to the local economy of \$17,548,500.

“Lincoln Home National Historic Site welcomes visitors from across the country and around the world,” said Superintendent Dale K. Phillips. “We are delighted to share the story of this place and the experiences it provides. We also feature the park as a way to introduce our visitors to this part of the country and all that it offers. National park tourism is a significant driver in the national economy, returning \$10 for every \$1 invested in the National Park Service, and it’s a big factor in our local economy as well. We appreciate the partnership and support of our neighbors and are glad to be able to give back by helping to sustain local communities.”

The peer-reviewed visitor spending analysis was conducted by economists Catherine Cullinane Thomas of the U.S. Geological Survey and Lynne Koontz of the National Park Service. The report shows \$16.9 billion of direct spending by 307.2 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park. This spending supported 295,000 jobs nationally; 252,000 of those jobs are found in these gateway communities. The cumulative benefit to the U.S. economy was \$32 billion.

According to the 2015 report, most park visitor spending was for lodging (31.1 percent) followed by food and beverages (20.2 percent), gas and oil (11.8 percent), admissions and fees (10.2 percent) and souvenirs and other expenses (9.8 percent).

To download the report visit go.nps.gov/vse.

The report includes information for visitor spending at individual parks and by state.

To learn more about national parks in Illinois and how the National Park Service works with Illinois communities to help preserve local history, conserve the environment, and provide outdoor recreation, go to www.nps.gov/ILLINOIS.

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National Park Service Centennial: Lincoln Home NHS is one of over 400 units of the National Park Service. In 2016, the National Park Service will celebrate 100 years of preserving, protecting, and interpreting America's natural and historic treasures. Join us in celebrating 100 years of America's Best Idea in your own backyard. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/liho or www.nps.gov/2016.